

THE LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing [[a]] an extracted mineral element composition that has a low pH comprising consisting essentially of:

(a) ~~providing a clay soil having~~

~~(i) a selected minimal concentration of cadmium, lead, arsenic, and mercury,~~

~~(ii) at least eight macro mineral elements,~~

~~(iii) at least sixty micro mineral elements,~~

~~(iv) at least ten rare earth elements,~~

~~(v) at least four percent by weight calcium,~~

~~(vi) at least four percent by weight silica; and,~~

(b) ~~processing the clay soil by~~

(i) ~~admixing the soil~~ a clay soil comprising,

at least eight macro mineral elements, comprising at least five percent by weight calcium and at least five percent by weight silica,

with water in an amount at least two times the weight of the soil and at least one acid to produce a water-acid-soil slurry; [[,]]

(ii) ~~allowing particles solids to settle from the slurry; to produce an acidic liquid comprising at least eight macro mineral elements and at least sixty micro mineral elements,~~

(iii) ~~separating the acidic liquid comprising at least eight macro mineral elements and at least sixty micro mineral elements from the settled particles solids; [[,]] and~~

(iv) ~~concentrating the separated acidic liquid to increase the concentration of mineral elements in the acidic liquid, wherein the pH of the concentrated liquid is from about 2 to about 5 to greater than 4% by weight.~~

2. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a composition made by the method of Claim 1 including

~~(a) at least eight macro mineral elements;~~

~~(b) a least sixty micro mineral elements; and,~~

~~(c) at least ten rare earth elements;~~

~~said article of manufacture having a pH of less than four.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising drying the concentrated acidic liquid to form a dry extracted ~~powder~~ mineral element composition.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein drying comprises spray drying the concentrated acidic liquid.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pH of the extracted mineral element composition is less than 4.5.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the macro mineral elements are calcium, chlorine, magnesium, manganese, phosphorous, potassium, silicon or sodium.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein a clay soil further comprises ~~the~~ micro mineral elements ~~are~~ aluminum, antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, bismuth, boron, bromine, cadmium, cerium, cesium, chromium, cobalt, copper, dysprosium, erbium, europium, fluorine, gadolinium, gold, hafnium, holmium, iodine, indium, iridium, iron, lanthanum, lead, lithium, lutetium, mercury, molybdenum, neodymium, nickel, niobium, palladium, platinum, praseodymium, rhenium, rhodium, rubidium, ruthenium, samarium, scandium, selenium, silver, strontium, sulfur, tantalum, terbium, tellurium, thallium, thorium, thulium, tin, titanium, tungsten, vanadium, ytterbium, yttrium, zinc or zirconium.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein a clay soil further comprises ~~the~~ rare earth elements ~~are metallic elements~~ with atomic numbers ranging from 58 to 71.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the water is purified by reverse osmosis.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the acid is an edible acid.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein the edible acid is citric acid.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 10, wherein the edible acid is phosphoric acid.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the acidic liquid is concentrated by reverse osmosis.